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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 077963 POSS DUPE
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 XMB-02 OES-07 DOE-15 SOE-02 SS-15
EUR-12 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00
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----------004603 271709Z /47
R 261415Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077963

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE NUCLEAR PROGRAM

REF: (A) LISBON 1154; (B) LISBON 1604; (C) STATE 51656;
(D) STATE 49832

1. GUIDANCE REQUESTED REFTEL A AS FOLLOWS: THE US IS WILLING TO COOPERATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER IN PORTUGAL. IN CONSIDERING FORMS OF SUCH COOPERATION, THE US WOULD PLACE GREAT WEIGHT ON PORTUGAL'S RECENT ACCESSION TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. HOWEVER, AT THIS TIME ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 077963 POSS DUPE

COMMENT ON EXIM FINANCING OF A NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT IS PREMATURE PENDING IMPROVEMENT IN THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY, AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF PORTUGAL'S ENERGY PLANS.

2. BEGIN FYI: GE AND WESTINGHOUSE, WITH WHOM EXIM HAS CLOSE CONTACT, HAVE NOT DISCUSSED FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS WITH EXIM. GIVEN PORTUGAL'S ECONOMIC AND BALANCE OF PAY-

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MENT DIFFICULTIES, FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNING PROJECTS OR THOSE WHICH CAN DEMONSTRATE IMPORT SAVINGS MAY BE MORE APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME AND EMBASSY SHOULD ENCOURAGE PORTUGUESE TO PURSUE PROJECTS MEETING THESE CRITERIA. WE RECOGNIZE HOWEVER, PROBLEMS PORTUGAL MAY HAVE IN MEETING THESE CRITERIA IN THE ENERGY FIELD. END FYI.

3. EMBASSY MAY ALSO WISH TO POINT OUT TO PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES THAT RECENT US LEGISLATION ESTABLISHES A PROGRAM FOR FY'79 THAT WOULD SUPPORT COOPERATION WITH A SMALL NUMBER OF COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP INDIGENOUS ENERGY RESOURCES OF ALL TYPES, BOTH NON-RENEWABLE (E.G., FOSSIL FUELS) AND RENEWABLE SUCH AS SOLAR POWER AND TO ASSESS ENERGY NEEDS WITH AN EVEN BALANCE BETWEEN NUCLEAR AND NON-NUCLEAR SUPPLIES. WHILE WE ARE NOT YET IN POSITION TO DETERMINE WHICH COUNTRIES COULD BE INVOLVED, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW WHETHER PORTUGAL MIGHT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH AN EFFORT. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL DESCRIBING PROGRAM WILL BE AIRPOUCHED. VANCE

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